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Contact: Jim Grebing 573-751-9065 or  
Tammy Miller 573-522-2724

Missouri Department of  
Economic Development  
P.O. Box 1157  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1157  
[www.missouridevelopment.org](http://www.missouridevelopment.org)

### **Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid Airport Security Workers**

The state has activated its Rapid Response Team to assist workers who will be laid off from two separate private contractors that provide security screening at Lambert-International Airport in St. Louis. About 135 workers will be laid off from Huntleigh USA and 250 workers will be laid off from International Total Services.

The airport screeners are losing their jobs because the federal government is now handling airport security. Both firms are located in St. Louis. The layoffs will take effect September 15.

The Rapid Response team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Huntleigh USA and International Total Services employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

“The Rapid Response team and the Career Centers provide invaluable assistance in helping displaced workers find new employment as quickly as possible,” Driskill said. “We encourage the workers to take advantage of these free services. The staff members at the Missouri Career Centers are very qualified and have excellent job-searching resources right at their fingertips.”

The services provided by the Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center are free of charge. They include assistance with resume preparation, career counseling, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training, tuition assistance for vocational training or education, and in some cases, training toward a new skill.

Representatives from DWD and SLATE are working with the two employee firms to ensure that workers have access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers to explain the services and how to use the Career Centers to their best advantage. The meetings are scheduled for 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Wednesday (Sept. 4) and at 9 and 10 a.m., and 1 and 3 p.m. on Saturday (Sept. 7).

Employers interested in hiring Huntleigh USA or International Total Services workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team should call DWD at 1-800-877-8698.